Claims

[c1] A method of associating clients with domain name system servers comprising the steps of:

receiving a domain name system query from a domain name system server requesting resolution of a calibrating domain name;

identifying a client based on the calibrating domain name;

associating the client with the domain name system server.

[c2] The invention of claim 1 wherein the client is identified by retrieving a network address encoded in the calibrating domain name.

[c3] The invention of claim 2 wherein the calibrating domain name points to a dummy object.

[c4] The invention of claim 2 wherein the network address is encoded in the calibrating domain name by a redirector.

[c5] The invention of claim 3 wherein the client is associated with the domain name system server by associating the network address of the client with the network address of the domain name system server.

[c6] The invention of claim 4 wherein the network addresses are Internet Protocol addresses and wherein the domain name system server is a DNS server.

[c7] A method of associating clients with domain name system servers comprising the steps of:

receiving a data request from a client with a network address;

encoding the client's network address in a calibrating domain name;

redirecting the client to the calibrating domain name, whereby the calibrating domain name can be utilized to associate the client with a domain name system server when a domain name system query is issued by the client.

[c8] The invention of claim 7 wherein the calibrating domain name points to a dummy object.

[c9] The invention of claim 8 wherein the data request is an HTTP request and redirection is accomplished using an HTTP redirect.

[c10] The invention of claim 9 wherein the client is associated with the domain name system server by associating the network address of the client with the network address of the domain name system server.

[c11] The invention of claim 10 wherein the network addresses are Internet Protocol addresses and wherein the domain name system server is a DNS server.

[c12] A method of associating clients with domain name system servers comprising the steps of:

receiving a data request from a client directed to a calibrating network address;

identifying a domain name system server by the calibrating network address, wherein the calibrating network address was provided to the domain name system server in response to a domain name system query issued by the domain name system server;

associating the client with identified domain name system server.

[c13] The invention of claim 12 wherein the data request is an HTTP request.

[c14] The invention of claim 13 wherein the client is associated with the domain name system server by associating the network address of the client with the network address of the domain name system server.

[c15] The invention of claim 14 wherein the network addresses are Internet Protocol addresses and wherein the domain name system server is a DNS server.